

BRIERFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

INTERIM REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1944.

Medical Officer of Health:

DR. A. BARLOW, M.B., Ch.B.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

TOWN HALL,

BRIERFIELD.

TO the Chairman and Members,
BRIERFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

In accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular No. 49/45, an Interim Report only, as in preceding years, is presented for the year 1944. It includes only essential or urgent matters, which have affected Public Health during the year. All records and statistics are being preserved so that in respect of the post-war years a full report may be made.

I have pleasure, therefore, in submitting for your consideration the following interim report on the Health, Sanitary conditions and Public Health administration in the Urban District of Brierfield for the year ended 31st December, 1944.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1944, according to the Rate Book was 2,490, the Rateable Value being £42,768 and the sum represented by a penny rate - £178.

The social conditions were good; the chief industry is cotton weaving, though a large number of people are working on munitions outside the area, and there was little unemployment in the District during the year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

104 Births belonging to the District occurred during 1944, as follows:-

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Live Births	58	40	98.
Still Births	3	3	6.
			<u>104.</u>

INFANTILE MORTALITY

5 Children under 1 year of age died during the year as follows:-

<u>Cause of Death.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Age.</u>
Encephalocoele	1	-	6 days.
Myelo-meningocoele	1	-	1 week.
Pneumonia	-	1	2 months.
Enlarged Thymus Gland	1	-	1 month.
Intra Cranial Haemorrhage	-	1	4 days.

DEATHS.

Comparative particulars with regard to deaths are given in the following table. From these it will be seen that 33% of the total deaths belonging to Brierfield occurred outside the District.

	1944.	1943.	1942.	1941.
TOTAL DEATHS:	99.	84	100	115.
Male deaths:	55	40	50	61
Female Deaths:	44	44	50	54
DEATHS OUTSIDE DISTRICT:	34	31	33	32.

The following table gives the ages at which deaths occurred also the causes of all deaths belonging to Brierfield during the Year, 1944:-

SUMMARY OF DEATHS.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Year.	1 to 5	5 to 15.	15- to 25.	25 to 65.	Over 65.	TOTAL.
Cerebro Spinal Fever.						1	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.				1	2	2	5
Syphilitic Diseases				1			1
Measles.	1						1
Cancer					12	5	17
Diabetes						1	1
Intercranial Vasc. Lesions.					3	9	12
Heart Disease					5	19	24
Other Circulatory Diseases.					1	3	4
Bronchitis.				1		1	2
Pneumonia.	1					1	2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum					1	1	2
Other Digestive Diseases.					4	2	6
Nephritis.					2	1	3
Congenital Malformation & Injury at Birth etc.	3						3
Suicide.						1	1
Road Accident.						1	1
Arterio Sclerosis.						2	2
Senility.						8	8
Enlarged Thyroid Gland.	1						1
Acute Infective Polyneuritis					1		1
Acute agitated melancholia by wounds sustained in War.					1		1
	5	1	-	3	32	58	99

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

This service is under the direction and control of the District Council. There has been no changes in the times of opening and they have been well attended.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

WATER.

Brierfield is supplied with a constant supply of water from the mains of Nelson Corporation, and there were no new sources of supply during the year.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

No extensions to sewers or sewage works were made during the year, and the existing services and arrangements have been efficiently maintained.

CLOSET ACCOM- MODATION.

There are approximately 17 pail closets in the District at isolated cottages in Marsden Heights.

SCAVENGING.

This is carried out by the Council's own workmen, with a two-ton "Karrier" tipping waggon. Domestic refuse is collected weekly free of charge from private houses, shops and mills, and disposed of at the Council's Destructor Works. This is now work of vital importance and the following amounts of materials have been salvaged:-

PAPER.....	65 tons.
METAL.....	38 tons.
BONES.....	1 ton. 13 cwt.
KITCHEN WASTE....	66 tons.

SANITARY INSPECTION.

	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Notices.</u>		<u>Remedied.</u>
		<u>Prelim.</u>	<u>Statutory.</u>	
Nuisance				
Inspections.	218	24	Nil	24.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS DURING 1944.

Houses found to be infested.....	Nil
Houses disinfested.....	Nil

When required disinfestation is by means of "Vermicine" and "Gescones" poison gas, carried out by the Local Authority, at the expense of the owner or occupier.

STATISTICS.

No houses have been erected during the year.

CONDITIONS.

Generally the houses are well built of stone, most are through houses and in good conditions.

HOUSING
SCHEME.

Since the outbreak of war, no new houses have been erected. 92 houses have been completed in previous years, whilst a contract for the erection of 64 houses has been stopped by the Contractor going into liquidation.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS.

DAIRIES
COWSHEDS &
MILKSHOPS.

The milk supply is plentiful and its quality wholesome, and it is distributed throughout the District directly chiefly by farmers in the vicinity.

Retail milk purveyors registered with the Council.... 35
Producers of milk registered with the Council..... 5.

Periodical inspections of places where food is prepared have been made, and the premises generally have been found in good order. Periodically, bacteriological examinations of samples of milk are made by the County Council.

MEAT.

All slaughtering has been transferred to the Central Abattoirs.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

All cases of infectious disease were visited upon notification, and where patients are not transferred to isolation hospital, they are isolated in one room of the house. Disinfectants are kept at the Town Hall and supplies are given to necessitous cases. Diphtheria Antitoxin and Tetanus Antitoxin are also issued free to Medical Practitioners on application.

DIPHTHERIA.

There was one case of Diphtheria notified during the year.

DIPHTHERIA
IMMUNISATION.

The scheme for the immunisation of children against Diphtheria has met with a good response. 105 children received treatment during the year, 92 of these were children under 5 years of age, the remaining 13 were children attending school. I have continued to give talks on the value of immunisation, and posters have been displayed in the township.

The following table gives the total number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified and the ages, during 1944-

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR, 1944.

	Total Cases at all ages.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.												Total Deaths.	Total cases removed to Hospital from the District.	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to the District
		Under 1 Year.	1 to 2.	2 to 3.	3 to 4.	4 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 to 35.	35 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and over.			
Measles.	40	5	3	5	11	2	11	1	1	1						
Puerperal Pyrexia	1									1						
Whooping Cough	28	4	5	7	3	2	7									
Scarlet Fever.	10			1		1	4	3								
Diphtheria.	1							1							6.	
Erysipelas.	5									1					1	
Pneumonia.	2						1		1							
Dysentery.	4		1		1					2						
																3
	91	9	9	13	15	5	23	5	2	3	3	1		Nil.	10	Nil.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1944.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1								
1 - 5								
5 - 10				1				
10 - 15							1	
15 - 20		1						
20 - 25								
25 - 35	1							
35 - 45	2				1			
45 - 55					1			
55 - 65					1		1	
Over 65	1							
	4	1		1	3	2		
	5		1		5		Nil.	

LABORATORY WORK.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED DURING YEAR 1944.

Swabs for Diphtheria.....	Positive 1.	Negative 16.
Faeces Pathogenic organisms.....	" 0.	" 10.
Sputum for Tuberculosis.....	" 1.	" 3.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Arrangements for Home Helps to attend were made in 7 cases, Grants in aid of Hospital accommodation in 2 cases. Maternity outfits are now supplied by the County Midwife.

BIRTHS.

Number of Births notified during the year under the Notification of Births Act, 1907, Section 203 of the Public Health Act, 1936, or Section 255 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, as adjusted by any transfer notifications:-

- (a) Live Births..... 98.
- (b) Still Births..... 6.
- (c) Total Births..... 104.
- (d) By Midwives..... 70.
- (e) By Doctors and Parents.. 34.

HEALTH VISITING.

Number of Visits paid during the year by the Health Visitor:-

- (1) To Expectant mothers First Visits 51
Total Visits 193
- (2) To children under 1 year. First Visits 75
Total Visits 834

INFANT
WELFARE
CENTRES.

Total number of children who first attended at the Centre during the year and who, on the date of their first attendance were:-

- | | | |
|------|-------------------------------------|----|
| (i) | Under 1 year of age..... | 73 |
| (ii) | Between the ages of 1 and 5 years.. | 2 |

ANTE-NATAL
AND POST
NATAL
SERVICES.

Number of women who attended ante-natal clinics during the year..... 53

Total number of attendances..... 329

Number of women who attended post-natal clinics during the year..... 4

Total number of attendances..... 14

Total number of expectant mothers ante-natally examined and of cases post-natally examined during the year, under arrangements made by the Council with private medical practitioners:-

- | | | |
|------|--------------------------------|-----|
| (i) | Ante-natal cases examined..... | Nil |
| (ii) | Post-natal cases examined..... | Nil |

INFANT
WELFARE
CENTRES.

Total number of children under 5 years of age who attended at the centre during the year and who, at the end of the year were:-

- | | | |
|------|--------------------------|----|
| (i) | Under 1 year of age..... | 70 |
| (ii) | Over 1 year of age..... | 92 |

SUPPLY OF
MILK AND
FOOD.

Dried milk is supplied at the Centre for expectant and nursing mothers and children under 5 years of age, free, or at less than cost price in necessitous cases. The total quantity of dried milk supplied during the year to above cases was 2,949 pounds. Fruit Juices and Cod Liver Oil have been supplied at the Centre under the Ministry of Health's arrangements.

MATERNAL
DEATHS.

There were no maternal deaths during the year.